

STROUD
Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

1905.

Printed at the STROUD NEWS Office, Stroud.

Medical Officer's Report

1905.

Gentlemen,—

One of the prescribed duties of every Medical Officer of Health is to make each year an Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of his District: I herewith beg to submit for your consideration my fourth annual report on this district.

The year under review has been of an uneventful character: there was a comparative immunity from notifiable infectious diseases and for the first time—since the adoption of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act in 1892—no case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

In the spring, however, a severe epidemic of measles occurred, resulting in the closure of five schools for varying periods.

Memoranda on the following subjects were received during the year from the Local Government Board:—

1. Housing of Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1903, prescribing new forms.
2. Small-pox among Navvies.
3. Cerebro-spinal Fever.

There was also received an Order from the Home Office extending the classes of work for which lists of outworkers have to be sent by employers to Sanitary Authorities.

HOUSING.

The memorandum of the Local Government Board, above referred to, explains fully the alterations in the method of procedure for obtaining closing orders in case of houses unfit for human habitation, under the Housing of the Working Classes Act. The Act of 1903 simplifies the procedure of closing a house if in the opinion of the local authority any dwelling house is not reasonably capable of being made fit for human habitation or is in such a state that the occupation thereof should be immediately discontinued: in this case, it is not necessary to serve a notice on the owner or occupier before applying to the Magistrates for a Closing Order, and the delay of a preliminary notice is saved.

There has, however, been no occasion this year for taking action in this matter, but there are one or two groups of back to back houses in the district which might well receive attention during the coming year. The number of new houses erected during 1905 was 7, while plans for 13 were submitted to and approved by the Council: the numbers of new houses in the preceding three years were 5, 6 and 4 respectively.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

As stated in previous reports, with the exception of outlying isolated houses and a group of houses at the south eastern part of the town, the whole of Stroud is sewered and drains to sewage disposal (chemical precipitation) works near the western boundary of the

district. A blockage occurred in one of the main sewers, and the cause was discovered during 1905 on opening up a length of the sewer under houses—namely, a faulty upright old connection which had broken in and nearly closed the sewer. This emphasises the wisdom of the present practice whereby all connections with the sewers are made by the Council.

There has been no change in the methods of dealing with the sewage during the year, but this is a matter to which I would commend your attention when the more pressing matters of the present time have been dealt with: for, the sewage effluent cannot be considered satisfactory, and now that the Rural District Council have made a beginning at removing the pollution of the streams in their district it all the more behoves this Council to take similar action.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

No action was taken in this matter during 1905. Owing to one or two riparian owners failing to agree to do their share, the clearing of the Slad Brook was not proceeded with. The main cause of the flooding was, however, discovered and removed.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The arrangements at present existing are the same as at the times of my previous reports. So far as I can gather the suitable receptacles required by Bye-law (No. 6, Bye-laws with respect to Nuisances) for the reception of house refuse, and to which I drew your special attention in my last report, are still used but seldom: I would suggest that householders should be reminded of the matter. At present heterogeneous recep-

tacles (often absorbent and in a foul condition) are used, and the necessity of a suitable cover is shown by the way in which the contents of the receptacles awaiting removal by the scavenger are pulled over by dogs and children.

WATER SUPPLY.

Probably there are few towns where the difficulties with respect to Water Supply are greater than they are in Stroud—the chief being the great variation in the different elevation of the houses (from about 150 to 570 feet).

It is only possible under existing conditions to turn the water to different parts of the town at different times, and the fact that many houses are without any storage for water causes great difficulty both to the occupants and the Council.

Although 1905 was a dry year, the supply has been fairly adequate though the strain on the present resources has been severely felt; this was chiefly experienced in the upper part of the town. It has been realised that steps for augmenting the supply should be taken, and at the meeting of the Council on the 3rd January, 1906, the Chairman of the Sanitary Committee reported that the Water sub-Committee were negotiating for an increase from Anstead's Farm. With this increase and the new mains and pumps at Gainey's Well it is anticipated that an ample supply of water for the needs of the town will be available. This will not however, affect the distribution owing to the old mains, and it will not be possible to give a constant supply, though it is desirable and is being aimed at, unless they are re-arranged; if a constant supply is provided, it will be necessary also to ensure that

all house fittings etc., are sufficient to bear the pressure and prevent waste of water.

The quality of the water was reported on by the County Analyst as favourably as in previous years; that one sample this year was not considered so satisfactory as it should have been was explained by the fact of its being taken from a "dead end."

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The number of common lodging houses and the number of persons for which they are licensed remains the same. During the year 59 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspector; they are on the whole very satisfactorily kept. It would probably tend to keep them freer from the vermin so often introduced by lodgers if the rooms were thoroughly fumigated from time to time.

DAIRIES ETC.

There are only a few dairy farms in the Urban District, but there are several small suppliers of milk; most of the supply for the town is brought from the Rural District and sold from the carts. The dairy farms are on the whole satisfactory, but the conditions under which small quantities of milk are kept by the small suppliers in the town are often undesirable.

During the year I reported on this matter to you, and at your request considered the Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, in force in the surrounding Rural District with a view to the requirements of this District: I recommended that these regulations should be adopted in toto, adding a clause to ensure the safe keeping of milk in small milkshops where heterogeneous articles are stored. These Regulations are now in the

hands of the Local Government Board for their approval.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

One complaint of smoke nuisance was received during the year; the miller stated to the Inspector that it could not be avoided. The Council instructed the Clerk to write to the miller, and the Inspector to keep the matter under observation.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

During 1905 the Home Office issued an Order under the Act of 1901 extending the list of employments, for which a list of outworkers has to be sent by manufacturers to the local authority; those added under this Order are the making of umbrella etc., covers, the making of paper bags and boxes, brush-making, and the making of stuffed toys. The same Order included these employments in the list of the home work, which must not be given out to houses where there is infectious disease.

The number of workshops on the register is 106.

The names of outworkers received during 1905 were 160 in number. During the year 94 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspector, and 16 defects were remedied on verbal notice.

3 notices were received from the Factory Inspector: these matters were dealt with and the results of the action taken sent to him.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of notifications of cases of infectious disease received during 1905 was 16—4 cases of scarlet fever and 12 of erysipelas; for the first time since the adoption

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries) ...	4	2	—
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries)...	63	5	—
WORKPLACES ...	—	—	—
HOMEWORKERS' PREMISES ...	27	—	—
Total ...	94	7	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	6	6	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	5	5	—	—
*Sanitary accommodation— unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	—
Total ...	16	16	—	—

* Section 22, Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, adopted.

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified by H.M. Inspectors of Factories, 3.

Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) in use at the end of the year, 2.

Homework : Lists received, 6 ; Outworkers, 160. Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Authorities, 184 ; received from other Authorities, 2.

Total number of Workshops on Register, 106.

of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act in 1892, no case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.—Of the 4 cases of this disease, 2 occurred in connection with a common lodging house in the town, the source of infection in each case being probably some visitor in the house; of the other two cases, one was introduced from Cardiff, and the fourth occurred in an operation case at the General Hospital. All four cases were removed to and treated in the Joint Isolation Hospital.

Erysipelas.—The number of cases of this disease—12—was unusually large, the average of the previous 13 years being between 6 and 7; 10 of these occurred in the first three and last three months of the year.

Measles.—There was an epidemic of this disease in the spring of this year; from information kindly supplied to me by the Head Teachers of the Schools, it appears that 344 cases occurred among 1,475 children, an attack rate of 23.3 per cent. Taking infants under 5 years and children over 5, the numbers and rates become

	Children.	Cases.	Attack rate.
Over 5 years.....	1,293	237	18.3 p.c.
Under 5 years	182	107	58.8 p.c.
Total	1,475	344	23.3 p.c.

There were 7 deaths from this disease, all of children under the age of 5 years: the total fatality (deaths per 100 cases) is 2.0, while the fatality for children under 5 (assuming that the above 107 cases were all that occurred) is 6.5. It is probable, however, that cases also occurred in children not attending school and that this percentage is higher than it should be.

During the epidemic the following schools were closed:—

Castle St. Infants	15 March to 20 April
Uplands Mixed	15 March to 25 March
Uplands Infants.....	15 March to 10 April
Parliament St. Infants...	29 March to 19 April
Beeches Green.....	13 April to 8 May

(Usual holiday, 19 April to 1 May.)

VITAL STATISTICS.

My estimate of the population of the district at the middle of 1905 was 8,895. I referred last year to the increasing uncertainty in such estimates the farther we advance from the census year, and to the difficulty in correcting the estimate when it is not possible to obtain an accurate return of the number of houses inhabited owing to the system of compounding rates. An intermediate census—less detailed and less costly than the decennial census—as desired by all statisticians—at the end of five years from the census would enable more accurate rates to be calculated and render these rates more valuable.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered during 1905 was 179—96 males and 83 females—a rate per 1,000 of the population of 20.1, the average for the previous ten years being 22.3. The quinquennial rate, as will be seen in Table A, has fallen steadily from 33.9 in 1875-1880 (6 years) to 20.3 in 1901-1905.

The birth rate in Uplands C.P. was slightly higher during 1905, and 2.0 per 1,000 higher on the average (1898-1904) than in Stroud C.P.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries) ...	4	2	—
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries)...	63	5	—
WORKPLACES ...	—	—	—
HOMEWORKERS' PREMISES ...	27	—	—
Total ...	94	7	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	6	6	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	5	5	—	—
*Sanitary accommodation— unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	—
Total ...	16	16	—	—

* Section 22, Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, adopted.

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified by H.M. Inspectors of Factories, 3.

Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) in use at the end of the year, 2.

Homework : Lists received, 6 ; Outworkers, 160. Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Authorities, 184 ; received from other Authorities, 2.

Total number of Workshops on Register, 106.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895	9,525	254	26.7	29	114			9			145	15.2
1896	9,458	201	21.3	18	90	122	12.9	21	7		115	12.2
1897	9,392	239	25.4	31	130	152	16.2	23	6		146	15.5
1898	9,327	205	22.0	30	147	126	13.5	19	6		120	12.9
1899	9,262	216	23.3	35	162	160	17.3	20	5		155	16.7
1900	9,198	204	22.2	30	147	207	22.5	76	43		164	17.8
1901	9,134	213	23.3	23	108	181	19.8	64	50	4	131	14.3
1902	9,071	164	18.1	26	159	176	19.4	68	44		136	15.0
1903	9,017	181	20.1	16	88	161	17.9	55	30	3	134	14.9
1904	8,954	178	19.9	17	95.5	126	14.1	43	27	5	104	11.6
Average for years 1895-1904.	9,234	206	22.3	26	126	157	17.0	43	24	4	135	14.6
1905	8,895	179	20.1	17	95	174	19.6	72	57	4	121	13.6

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 1,148. Total population at all ages, 9,153.

Number of inhabited houses, 2,003. Average number of persons per house, 4.57. (At Census of 1901).

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District : { Stroud Union Workhouse
Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District : { Stroud General Hospital.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District : { Gloucester County Asylum.
Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District : { Gloucester Infirmary.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District ?—Yes.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1905 and previous years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	1.—WHOLE DISTRICT.				2.—STROUD.				3.—UPLANDS.			
	YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1898	...	9,327	120	30	205	106	25	7,875	170	1,452	14	5
1899	...	9,262	155	35	216	140	31	7,800	177	1,462	15	4
1900	...	9,198	164	30	204	142	26	7,726	170	1,472	22	4
1901	...	9,134	131	23	213	115	20	7,652	172	1,482	16	3
1902	...	9,071	136	26	164	118	23	7,579	135	1,492	18	3
1903	...	9,017	134	16	181	119	15	7,513	146	1,504	15	1
1904	...	8,954	104	17	178	93	16	7,440	152	1,514	11	1
Average of Years 1898 to 1904 ...		9,138	135	25	194	119	22	7,655	160	1,483	16	3
1905	...	8,895	121	17	179	104	13	7,370	148	1,525	17	4

TABLE III.

Case of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.		NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY	
	At Ages—Years.						1	2	1	2
		At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Erysipelas	12	1		2		8	1			
Scarlet Fever	4		1	2	1				4	
Totals	16	1	1	4	1	8	1	16	4	

W. Workhouse.
Isolation Hospital—Stroud Joint Isolation Hospital, Cainscross.

SCHEDULE B.—Stroud Urban District, 1905.

Cause of Death.	All ages	Under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—65	65 and upwards	Stroud	Uplands	Work-house	Hospit'l	In Public Institutions.
Measles	7		7					7				
Epidemic Influenza	5					1	4	3	2			
Whooping Cough	1	1							1			
Enteritis	2	1	1					2				
Other Septic Diseases	1	1						1			1	1
Tuberculosis of Meninges	2			2				2			1	
Tuberculosis of Lungs	14				5	9		13	1	2	1	1
Cancer	5					1	4	5		3	3	5
Premature Birth	3	3						1	2			
Developmental Diseases	5	5						5		4		
Old Age	13						13	10	3			2
Inflammation and Softening of Brain										1		1
Organic Diseases of Heart	5				1	2	2	5			1	1
Acute Bronchitis	5	2	2				1	4	1			
Chronic Bronchitis	10					1	9	10		11		9
Lobar (Croupous) Pneumonia	3				1	2		2	1			
Lobular (Broncho-) Pneumonia... ..	3	1	2					2	1			
Diseases of Stomach											1	1
Obstruction of Intestines	2					1	1	1	1		7	5
Cirrhosis of Liver... ..											1	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	4					1	3	2	2	1	1	2
Accidents and Diseases of Parturition											1	1
Deaths by Accident or Negligence	2				1	1		2			4	3
Deaths from Ill-defined Causes...	7	2			1	1	3	7		8	2	9
Diabetes	1					1		1				
Apoplexy	3					1	2	3				
All other Causes	18	1	1			6	10	16	2	14	4	15
ALL CAUSES	121	17	13	2	9	28	52	104	17	44	28	57

Birth Rate.

	Average 1898-1904.	1905.
Stroud C.P.	20.9	20.1
Uplands C.P.	22.9	20.3
S.U.D. ..	21.2	20.1

Illegitimate births (all in Stroud C.P.) were 12 in number—6.7 per cent. of total births: the percentage in each of the previous three years was 5.1 per cent., the average for England and Wales (1891-1900) being 4.2 per cent.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered in the district during 1905 was 174, a rate per 1,000 of the population of 19.6, the average for the previous 9 years being 17.0. Of the total 174 deaths, 72 occurred in public institutions in the district—Union Workhouse, 44, and General Hospital, 28—of which number 57 were of persons belonging to the surrounding districts: 4 persons belonging to Stroud died in the County Asylum.

The nett number of deaths for this district is thus 121 (55 males and 66 females), a death rate per 1,000 of the population of 13.6, the average for the previous 10 years being 14.6. When corrected for the age and sex distribution of the population the rate for 1905 becomes 13.2: the rate for the Rural District similarly corrected was 13.4, and the rate for England and Wales 15.2.

The quinquennial rates are given in Table A, from which it appears that the death rate for this district has gradually fallen from 21.6 in 1875-1880 (6 years) to 13.9 in 1901-1905 with a slight rise between 1886-1890 and 1891-1895.

The comparative rates for Stroud and Uplands are given below from which it will be

seen that the death rate for Uplands C.P. is considerably below that for Stroud C.P. This difference is probably—in part at any rate—to be accounted for by the differences in the age and sex distribution of the population in the two parishes.

Death Rates.

	Average 1898-1904.	1905.
Stroud C.P.	15.5	14.1
Uplands C.P.	10.8	11.15
S.U.D.	14.8	13.6

Table A.
Quinquennial Rates.

Years.	Birth Rate.	Infantile Mortality.	Death Rate.
1875-1880	33.9	161	21.6
1881-1885	30.85	152	18.9
1886-1890	27.1	127	15.3
1891-1895	24.8	136	16.1
1896-1900	22.8	135	15.0
1901-1905	20.3	108	13.9

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

This year the Local Government Board has introduced a new and very useful table (Table V.) for the distribution of infantile deaths according to the month and week of death, and according to the cause of death. The total deaths of infants under one year of age during 1905 was 17, an infantile mortality of 95, which is considerably below the average of the previous 10 years, 126.

The rates for the two constituent civil parishes are :—

Infantile Mortality.

	Average 1898-1904.	1905.
Stroud C.P.	137.5	88
Uplands C.P.	88	129
S.U.D.	129	95

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	9-10 Months.	Total Deaths under one Year.
All Causes	Certified ...	4	3	7	2	3	1	1	1	15
	Uncertified ...	—	—	--	2	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth...	...	2	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus...	...	1	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	3
Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
Bronchitis...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Other Causes	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Totals	...	4	3	7	4	3	1	1	1	17

Births in the Year:—Legitimate, 167 = $\frac{\text{m. } 90.}{\text{f. } 77.}$ Illegitimate, 12 = $\frac{\text{m. } 6.}{\text{f. } 6.}$

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 121.

There were no deaths of illegitimate infants under the age of one year during 1905.

TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

The number of deaths during 1905 was 16, an increase on the numbers in 1904 (13) and 1903 (15), while in 1902 the number was 21. The rate per 1,000 is 1.80, and the rates in the preceding three years 1.45, 2.3 and 1.7 respectively, the average rate (1891-1901) being 1.49. The number of houses disinfected after a death had occurred was 11.

CANCER.

Five deaths were certified as being caused by malignant disease—a rate per 1,000 of the population of .56. The rates in the previous years were 1.23, 1.22 and .66 respectively, the average (1891-1901) being .77.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

Deaths not certified by a medical certificate were 9 in number—7.4 per cent. of total deaths. Inquests were held in 6 cases—5 per cent. of total deaths.

The verdicts of the juries were:—

1. f. 85. Found dead in bed, having died from bronchitis.
2. m. 19. Found dead in bed.
3. m. 36. Suddenly from natural causes.
4. m. 35. Run over by wagon (laden): fell from shafts: horse frightened by motor bicycle.
5. f. 30. Disease of kidneys: uræmia.
6. f. 17. Accidental injury to left arm, caught and crushed by rollers of carding machine: subsequent amputation of arm: lived 7 hours.

Heart failure, consequent on hæmorrhage at time of accident and severe shock.

In three cases (2.5 per cent. of total deaths) no inquests were held: the ascribed causes of death were:—

1. m. 6 weeks. Convulsions.
2. m. 5 weeks. Premature.
3. m. 69 years. Heart failure.

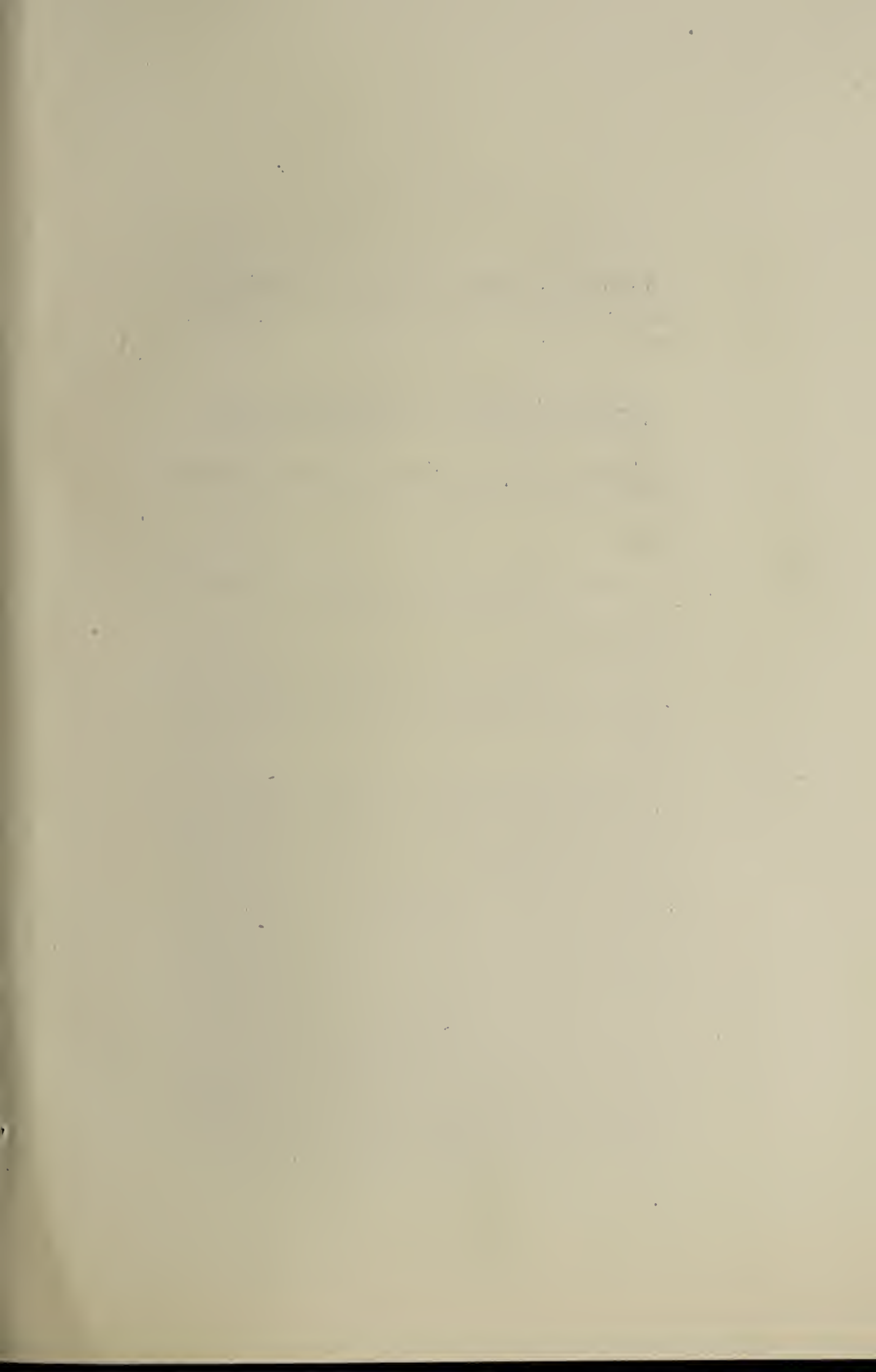
The five tables of statistics of births, deaths and infectious diseases prescribed by the Local Government Board are appended herewith.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) J. MIDDLETON MARTIN,

B.A., M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year Ending Dec. 31, 1905



To the Chairman and Members of the Stroud
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—

I have respectfully to submit for your consideration and approval a summarised report of the work of this department for the past year.

The number of nuisances abated amount to 214, and are classified as follows:—27 houses whitewashed and cleansed, 13 houses repaired, 20 houses fumigated and cleansed after infectious diseases, 3 cases of overcrowding abated, 7 dairies and milkshops whitewashed, 10 slaughterhouses whitewashed, 9 bakehouses whitewashed and cleansed, 4 cowsheds whitewashed and repaired, 3 new w.c.'s erected or re-built, 8 soil pipes and drains ventilated, 23 w.c.'s and drains unstopped, 7 drains discontinued, 10 new drains laid, 18 accumulations of manure and filth removed, 13 lots of animals improperly kept removed and cleansed, 22 workrooms and workshops cleansed and repaired, 17 various other nuisances removed.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The bye-laws relating to slaughterhouses within the district have been generally complied with, only in exceptional cases has there been any need of complaint, which applies chiefly to the buildings, which are in some cases very old and ill-adapted for the purposes for which they are now used.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Since the introduction of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, extra attention has become necessary for the carrying out of its provisions, and, the special orders appertaining to same.

Notices have been served where required, which have been complied with.

The extended order issued this year, relating to outworkers in additional occupations, makes no material difference in this district.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

It is most important that these houses should be under constant supervision and control. Fifty-nine visits have been made at various times, the necessary notices as to limewashing, etc., having been complied with.

The new "Model" in Acre Street continues to be efficiently managed, also to maintain its standard of cleanliness, and as such it has certain influence on the others, which being such older buildings, are more heavily handicapped in this direction, but on the whole are well conducted.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

41 visits have been paid to the dairies, cowsheds and milkshops in the district, notices being given where necessary for whitewashing and cleansing.

UN SOUND FOOD.

A large quantity of fruit, fish, meat and vegetables were condemned, as unfit for food, and afterwards destroyed. As nearly all were voluntarily given up, no wilful evasion of the law was detected, it was therefore unnecessary to resort to legal action.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SCAVENGING.

This work continued to be carried out in the usual manner; the very small number of complaints is evidence of the satisfactory way in which the work is done.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Licensed premises for the storage of petroleum, etc., have been inspected as usual, all complying with the regulations.

Seventeen samples have been tested, all of which were over the standard requirements.

CANAL BOATS ACTS

During the year 24 canal boats were inspected, or re-inspected, the boats being generally in good and sanitary condition. No case of infectious disease, or overcrowding, occurred; 3 infringements were dealt with. All the boats were free from bilge water, ventilation fairly good, proper provision for storage of water, with one exception.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WM. PARSONS,

Cer. R.S.I.